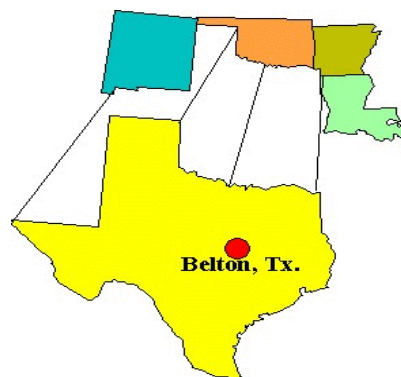


# **ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES, INC.**

## **Belton, Bell County, Texas**

**EPA Region 6**  
**EPA ID# TXD06637964**  
**Site ID: 0605009**  
**State Congressional District: 11**  
**Fact Sheet Updated: September 2005**



## **Site Description**

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**Location:** The Rockwool site is an approximately 100 acre tract of land located at 1741 Taylors Valley Road, 1/4 mile east of Interstate Highway 35, and 1 ½ miles east of downtown Belton, Bell County, Texas. The city of Belton is located in central Texas, between Waco and Austin.

**Setting:** The area surrounding the site is primarily industrial. There are several businesses, a gas station, a fast food restaurant, and 2 residences within 1/4 mile of the site. Approximately 3,000 citizens live within a one mile radius of the site.

The Rockwool facility operated as a mineral wool insulation manufacturing plant from mid-1950 until February 1987. The site has been inactive since February 1987.

**Population:** The population of the city of Belton is an estimated 14,500, and the population of Bell County is approximately 226,000.

## **Wastes and Volumes**

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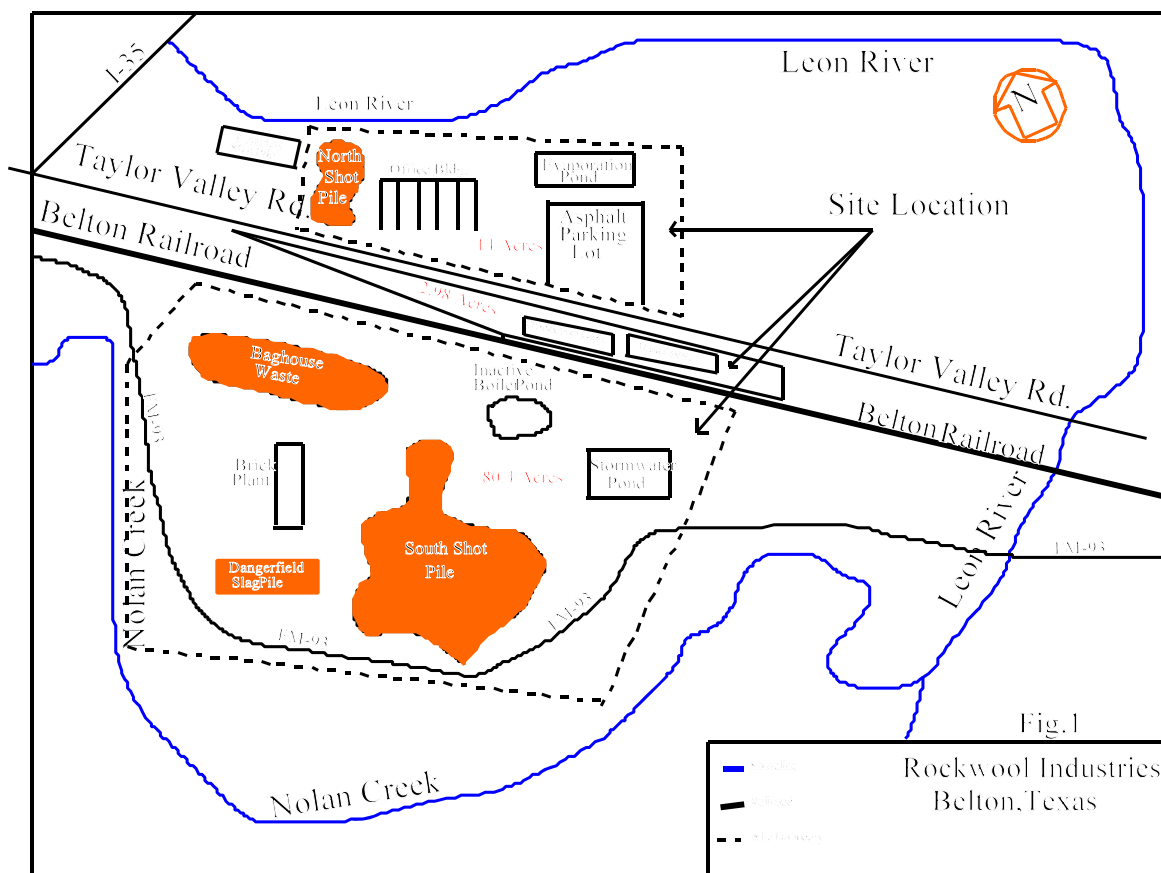
The main wastes at the Rockwool site are located in the North and South Shot Piles with estimated volumes of 15,000 to 18,000 cubic yards and 20,000 to 30,000 cubic yards respectively of "spent iron shot" as a by product of the manufacture of mineral wool insulation. An undetermined amount of "spent shot" waste is located at the boundary of a cemetery which adjoins the site to the north by the Leon River.

## **National Priorities List**

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**NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: March 6, 1998**  
**NPL Inclusion Final Date: September 29, 1998**  
**NPL Deletion Proposal Date: n/a**  
**NPL Final Deletion Date: n/a**

## Site Map



## Site History

The Rockwool Industries, Inc. (Rockwool) manufactured mineral wool insulation from mid-1950s until February 1987. From 1984 to 1987, Rockwool operated under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit. The facility manufactured two types of mineral wool insulation: blow wool and batt wool. The mineral wool was manufactured in blast furnaces using raw material such as slags from copper and antimony smelting, waste from limestone mining, as well as coke and basalts. The raw material was melted in a coke-fired furnace and then extruded by blowing air over spinning drums to form fibers. The residue left in the furnace from the heating of the slags was a metal "shot" type material. This "spent iron shot" was the main waste type generated as a part of the Rockwool production process.

## Present Status and Issues

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The US EPA completed the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS). EPA started sampling and other investigations from the first week of May, 2001. The sampling event was completed on August 31, 2001. Approximately 60 fish samples were collected during the sampling. The following samples were collected:

- 89 surface and subsurface.
- 2 ground water seep samples
- 10 ground water samples
- 4 sediment and 1 surface water sample

In addition 10 lead based paint and 31 asbestos determination samples were collected.

Preliminary data evaluation indicates that contaminants of concern i.e. Arsenic, Antimony and Selenium in Leon River water has the same value upgradient and downgradient of the site i.e. unaffected by the North Shot Pile. Sediment samples from the Leon River show elevated levels of metals i.e. Arsenic adjacent to the North Shot Pile area. 101 fish samples were analyzed for the concentration of metals in the fish tissue. Of the 101, 40 samples were collected in June- July of 2002 to resample fish at upgradient locations to establish back ground levels. The analysis showed elevated levels of antimony in the fish tissue in the south bank of Leon River adjacent to the North Shot Pile. Sediments adjacent to the North Shot Pile have higher metal values than down gradient samples in the Leon River. Water samples are not significantly different between upgradient , adjacent and downgradient areas in the Leon River.

## Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) and the Agency for Toxic substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) evaluated hazard from the site in late 1998 through mid-1999 and determined that Rockwool poses an indeterminate public health hazard. TDH concluded that site contaminants through groundwater posed no public health hazard. Also exposure to site contaminants in other on-site waste sources posed no public health hazard. Contractors for EPA completed a Technical Activities Work Plan (TAPW) which was approved by EPA by November 2000. Risk Assessment group at EPA reviewed it and made suggestions on sampling, which were incorporated in the final sampling plan for the RI/FS. The Sampling and Analysis Plan was approved by EPA in February 2001. Field Sampling and Analysis took place between July and October 2001. The Data Evaluation and Validation was complete by December 2001. Human Health Risk Assessment was completed by late July 2002 and a preliminary Proposed Plan readied in late August 2002. With the results of HHRA the RI and FS report was revised

between August and November 2002 ( to incorporate the fish data gathered in June-July 2002). The final RI/FS report was approved by the Texas Department on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in January 2003. The Proposed Plan was announced in the Belton Journal on May 15 , 2003 for the 30 day public comment period. The 30 day comment period was from May 16 to June 16, 2003. On June 5, 2003 EPA held a public meeting to discuss the Proposed Plan and solicit comments from the public. A court reporter was present to record oral comments. The Interim ROD was signed on September 23,2003. The Interim ROD recommends a recycling remedy and evaluating the remaining ecological risk if any. The Remedial Design(RD) for the final ROD was started on October 8, 2003. The RD focuses on 1) whether recycling of the

contaminated soil and sediments can be performed cost effectively and 2) what other ecological risks would remain after the Leon River sediments are removed and recycled during the Remedial Action (RA).

## Record of Decision (ROD)

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An Interim ROD based **on the human health risk** assessment was issued on September 23, 2003, after the Proposed Plan was reviewed and public comments were received. No adverse comment on the selected remedy was received by the end of the comment period which ended on June 16, 2003. Reflecting previous concerns expressed to the EPA community relation personnel the most common public desire is to see the site cleaned up and returned to tax-generating use. A final ROD was signed on September 30, 2004. The Final ROD had essentially the same remedy as the Interim ROD except an on-site containment remedy was found to be easier to implement and more economic.

## Community Involvement

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### Community Involvement Plan:

A "Draft" Community Involvement Plan to support the "long term" Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site was prepared by the EPA Region 6 in November 1999.

### EPA Hosted Community Meetings

- 9/2/99: Members of the EPA Community Involvement Team conducted community interviews at businesses and residences in the vicinity of the Rockwool site.
- 10/27/99: The EPA briefed City Officials from Belton and Temple on the status of the Rockwool site.
- 12/14/99: The EPA briefed the City of Belton council members and held an Availability Session after the Belton City Council meeting.
- 04/24/01: The EPA Project Manager explained the Superfund Process and upcoming sampling and investigation event at Rockwool at the Belton City Council meeting, and held an Availability Session after the City Council Meeting. Sam Murphy of Rep Chet Edwards office was present urging EPA not to allow any slow down of the cleanup process.
- 08/09/01 The EPA RPM presented preliminary results of sampling to Mayor Holmes and City Manager Sam Listi at the end of sampling and data collection by August 1, 2010
- 10/16/01 RPM and Barbara Greenfield of Superfund Redevelopment visited the site with Mayor Holmes and Manager Sam Listi to facilitate early action for site redevelopment.
- 8/08/2002 Draft Final RI/FS
- 9/23/2002 Rockwool received a \$50,000 Superfund Redevelopment study grant in September 2002. City will generate a RFQ report with the grant
- 9 to 11/02 Revisions to the RI/FS Report
- 1/24/03 Final approval of RI/FS from TCEQ

6/5/2003      Presentation of the Proposed Plan  
 9/23/2003      Interim ROD (based on human health risk assessment) signed  
 10/08/2003    Start of the Remedial Design  
 1/12/2004      Preliminary results of treatability studies show recycling of contaminated soil would work as proposed in the Interim ROD. Also bioassay of six sediment samples collected in December 2003, show the sediments to be non-toxic thus not requiring development of cleanup levels to protect ecology of the Leon River. The bioassay was conducted on *Hyalella azteca* which is known to be particularly sensitive to metals. Thus removal of sediments by visual inspection will preemptively remove the source of possible contamination of the biota in Leon River.

The Final Proposed Plan was sent for a 30 day public comment on August 20, 2004. By September 18, 2004 the only written comment was from the City of Belton wanting the Containment Cell (CC) to be located away from the FM 93 where it was proposed. The City's concern were incorporated in the Final ROD issued on September 30, 2004. Because of non-toxic nature of the Leon River sediments the remedy remains the same as in the Interim ROD. No additional remedial measures are needed to address the ecological risk. The Remedial Design was completed by February 2005. The Remedial Action (RA) to implement the remedy in the RD was started by February 15, 2005. The final RD was modified to place a Matcon cover for the CC and stabilize the Leon River Bank using Atriculated Concrete Blocks to finish the construction by August 15, 2005. Construction of the CC will start the week of April 18 and the total remedy will be completed by August 25, 2005.

#### **Public Notice Announcing the Placement of Rockwool on the NPL: 12/2/99**

**Fact Sheets:**            9/2/99, 11/11/99, 4/3/00, 6/03/03, 11/15/03

**Public Meeting:**      Was conducted at the conclusion of the RI/FS and the start of the public comment period for the Proposed Plan for an Interim ROD on June 5, 2003.

**Constituency Interest:** Because the site is mostly removed from downtown Belton and poses no immediate health risks to the community, there is minimal citizen concern for the site. The citizens interviewed did, however, ask to be kept informed of site activities through either mailings or publications in the Belton Journal.

Site Repository:  
 City of Belton City Hall  
 333 East Avenue A  
 Belton, TX 76513  
 (254) 933-5816

#### **Technical Assistance Grant** \_\_\_\_\_

Availability Notice: Public Notice on December 2, 1999  
 Letters of Intent Received: None

"Final" TAG Application received: n/a  
Grant Award Date: n/a  
Current Status: n/a

## **Site Contacts**

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

Remedial Project Manager (Contact for Technical Questions):

Shawn Ghose M.S., P.E, 214-665-6782 & Gary Miller, P.E.; 214-665-8318; Mail Code: 6SF-AP

Community Involvement Staff (Contact for Community Relations Questions):

Vacant at this time

Site Attorney (Contact for Legal Questions):

George Malone 214-665-8030, Mail Code: 6RC-S

State Contact ( TCEQ ) Robert Wucher (512) 239-2494

Region 6 Liaison (Contact for Dispute Resolution):

Arnold Ondarza, 214-665-6790, Mail Code: 6SF-D

Superfund Region 6 Toll Free Number: 1-800-533-3508

## **Realized Cleanup Benefits**

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Remediation of the contaminated media will reduce the health and ecological risk associated with the contaminants. EPA has extended a Superfund Redevelopment grant to the City of Belton for returning the site for beneficial industrial reuse. The city of Belton has planned a 900,000 square foot set of buildings with light manufacturing facility, office show rooms, anchor stores and inline store facilities after clean up.